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Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

November 15, 1994

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The Honorable Craig Thomas U.S. House of Representatives 1019 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thomas:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Sheriff Forrest Bright and Jail Administrator David Evans, regarding the Commission's Billed Party Preference (BPP) proceeding. On May 19, 1994, the Commission adopted a <u>Further Notice</u> of <u>Proposed Rulemaking</u> in this proceeding. I have enclosed a copy of the <u>Further Notice</u> and press release accompanying it for your information.

The <u>Further Notice</u> sets forth a detailed cost/benefit analysis of BPP. This analysis indicates, based on the available data, that the benefits of BPP to consumers would exceed its costs. The <u>Further Notice</u> sought comment on this analysis and asked interested parties to supplement the record concerning the costs and benefits of BPP. The <u>Further Notice</u> also invited parties to recommend alternatives to BPP that could produce many of the same benefits at a lower cost. Reply comments were due September 14, 1994. Presently, the Commission is evaluating the comments submitted and considering the implentation of BPP along with other options.

The <u>Further Notice</u> also explicitly sought comment on whether correctional facility telephones should be exempt if BPP is adopted. Specifically, the <u>Further Notice</u> sought additional information on the effectiveness and costs of controlling fraud originating on inmate lines with or without BPP. The <u>Further Notice</u> also sought comment on a proposal to exempt prison telephones from BPP if the operator service provider adheres to rate ceilings for inmate calling services.

BPP would not preclude prison officials from blocking or limiting inmate calls to specific telephone numbers in order to prevent threatening and harassing calls. Moreover, BPP would not affect the ability of prison officials to limit inmates to collect calling or to program telephone equipment at the prison site to block certain numbers.

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Thank you for your interest in this proceeding. I can assure you that the Commission will carefully examine all of the comments submitted in response to the <u>Further Notice</u>, including additional empirical data regarding the costs and benefits of implementing BPP and the impact of BPP on telephone service from correctional facilities.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen M.H. Wallman

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Common Carrier Bureau

Enclosures

CRAIG THOMAS WYOMING, AT LARGE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

September 29, 1994

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Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

Enclosed please find copies of letters regarding the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) proposed rules on the Billed Party Preference (BPP) for long distance calls.

David Evins and Forrest Bright, constituents of mine, have raised several valid concerns regarding this matter. They are worried that they will not be able to adequately control collect calls going out of this detention facility. I would greatly appreciate your addressing their concerns.

I look forward to your timely response.

Best regards,

Craig Thomas

Member of Congress

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Minta County, **W**yoming



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Office of Forrest C. Bright, Sheriff Lou Napoli, Undersheriff Johnny McCoy. Administrative Lieutenant Dave Evins, Jail Administrator



Member

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, DC 20554

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	Party Preference InterLATA Calls		<i>32 </i>

COMMENTS OF UINTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE & JAIL, WYOMING

As Sheriff of Uinta County I am extremely concerned about the proposed Billed Party Preference for long distance telephone calls. There are three specific areas that will have an adverse effect on the Uinta County Jail, specifically:

- We will lose blocking control of our inmate phone calls.
- We will lose a revenue stream and the inmate family phone costs could go up.
- The potential for fraud will creep back into the system.

Along with these major considerations is my concern for who will ultimately be responsible for paying for the changes.

I am adamantly opposed to the BPP and encourage the FCC to also oppose this concept.

Sheriff

/tk

cc:

Vice President Gore The Honorable Malcolm Wallop The Honorable Alan K. Simpson The Honorable Craig Thomas

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Office of
Forrest C. Bright, Sheriff
Lou Napoli, Undersheriff
Johnny McCoy, Administrative Lieutenant
Dave Evins, Jail Administrator



Member

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, DC 20554

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- 2. We will lose a revenue stream and the inmate family phone costs could go up.
- 3. The potential for fraud will creep back into the system.

Along with these major considerations is my concern for who will ultimately be responsible for paying for the changes.

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Singerely

Jail Administrator

/tk

cc:

Vice President Gore
The Honorable Malcolm Wallop
The Honorable Alan K. Simpson
The Honorable Craig Thomas

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